

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



December 3, 1987

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-109-87


TO: ALL-COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF FOOD STAMP AND AFDC PARTICIPATION FOR
FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have been notified by the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), Western Region Office, of the requirement for local agencies to confirm for school officials an individual household's participation in the Food Stamp and/or AFDC Programs in order to be eligible for free school meals.

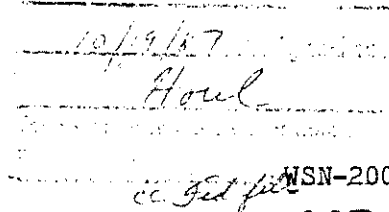
You are authorized to release information to school districts verifying households' Food Stamp or AFDC eligibility status. The attached letter from FNS provides information regarding local agencies' responsibility for disclosure to school officials.

If you have any questions, you may call the AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 322-5330.


ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: CWDA



WSN-200: SA-9-1-CA-88

OCT 15 1987

Ms. Linda S. McMahon, Director
Department of Social Services
744 P Street, Mail Stop 17-11
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. McMahon:

As in the past, we are requesting your cooperation to ensure that your local Food Stamp and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program offices are informed that they are authorized to confirm individual households' participation in the Programs for school officials who request such information. A recent revision of the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) now not only provides for free lunches and breakfasts for school children in food stamp households but also for children in AFDC assistance units which provide a case number.

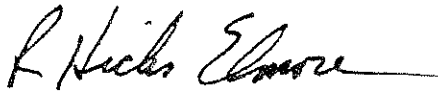
Section 9, paragraph (6)(A) of the NSLA mandates that "a child shall be considered automatically eligible for a free lunch and breakfast under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA), respectively, without further application or eligibility determination if the child is a member of (i) a household receiving assistance under the food stamp program... or (ii) an AFDC assistance unit..." In addition, paragraph (6) (B) states that "proof of receipt of food stamps or aid to families with dependent children shall be sufficient to satisfy any verification requirement imposed under paragraph (2) (C)."

In their efforts to verify whether a child is currently a member of a food stamp household or an AFDC assistance unit, school officials may contact local welfare offices of children receiving free meals under the NSLA and the CNA. This information is used expressly for the verification of eligibility for free school meals and prompt release will facilitate the process for recipients and school officials.

We ask that your local offices be advised that they are authorized to release information to school districts verifying households' food stamp or AFDC eligibility status. The Food Stamp Application Privacy Act Statement allows this information to be provided to officials verifying school meal eligibility in accordance with Section 169 of Public Law 97-253. The National Office of the Family Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is drafting an informational directive to its regional offices advising them of the authorization under Public Laws 99-500 and 99-591 for school officials to seek confirmation of the eligibility status of AFDC assistance units. Section 402(a)(9)(c) of the Social Security Act also authorizes confirmation that an individual is an AFDC recipient for purposes of administering the school lunch program. Disclosure of information is restricted to persons who are involved in the administration of a Federal program or Federally assisted program, e.g. the National School Lunch Program, as specified in the Social Security Act and implementing regulations at 45 CFR 205.50.

Your cooperation in this matter is essential and will be appreciated. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Carol Fahey, Regional Child Nutrition Program Director at (415) 556-4938. A copy of the NSLA is also enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Hicks Elmore".

R. HICKS ELMORE
Regional Administrator
Western Region

Enclosure

A handwritten word, possibly "Houl", written next to the word "Enclosure".